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NEWS RELEASE

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the sentencing yesterday of Dennard Hutchinson, age 29, of Hopewell, Virginia, to 24 years and 4 months of imprisonment, and Kenta Darlington, age 23, of Hopewell, Virginia, to 7 years and 4 months imprisonment by United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson. On June 30, 2003, Hutchinson and Darlington pled guilty to conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base.

Dennard Hutchinson and Kenta Darlington were involved in a conspiracy to distribute large quantities of cocaine base beginning in at least August of 2002. Hutchinson distributed between ½ to 1 ½ kilograms of cocaine base every week from August 2002 until March 2003. Kenta Darlington was an associate of Hutchinson and helped him facilitated his crimes.

Also announcing the sentencing is Jay Gregorius, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Richmond Field Division.

The case was investigated by the DEA and prosecuted for the United States by Assistant United States Attorney Roderick C. Young.

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